



Deputy Director
for Administration

DDA 85-1406
18 April 1985

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Biography - Hercules Mulligan

Bill,

In the biography of Hercules Mulligan by Michael O'Brien it states there is no known portrait of Mulligan. We will test our research capabilities and hope to prove Mr. O'Brien wrong.

/s/ Harry

Harry E. Fitzwater

Attachment

DDA/HEFitzwater:rj (18 April 85)

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Hercules Mulligan

CONFIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENT OF
GENERAL WASHINGTON

By

MICHAEL J. O'BRIEN, LL.D.



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Hercules Mulligan

In the "Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York,"¹⁸⁴ by David C. Valentine, there is a copy of a poster which was distributed among the citizens on November 24, 1783, announcing the formation and route of the procession held on the first Evacuation Day, which indicates that the cavalcade, after proceeding through the Bowery, passed down Queen Street to the Battery. A writer on "Old New York" refers to the morning of November 25, 1783, as "a cold, frosty, but bright and brilliant morning." No mention is made here of the incident of Washington's meeting the Mulligan family at table, but it is assumed, that when he reached the Battery he returned through Queen Street to the Mulligan home to fill an appointment for breakfast, accompanied probably by some member or members of his staff. The chair in which Washington sat at the Mulligan home on this occasion is still in the family, to whom it has come down from William Cooke Mulligan to his son, William, and thence to the latter's daughter, Mrs. Fanning, its present custodian. No portrait of Hercules Mulligan is known to exist. Mrs. Grace Wheeler Lawrence of New York, a descendant of Hercules through his son, John W. Mulligan, has in her possession an old blue dinner plate, and Mrs. Lawrence informs me that "this plate has come down in her family from the wife of John Mulligan, the grandson of Hercules, and that the tradition is that it was used by Washington at the Mulligan home during the Revolutionary times."

¹⁸⁴ Vol. for 1861, p. 475.